

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please amend paragraphs 21 and 22 of the specification as follows:

[0021] Fig. 3 shows a diagrammatic illustration of a control sequence of the tailgate. In the event of an opening command, which is passed to a control ~~unit~~ ~~(not shown),~~ unit, for example via a remote control, the control unit switches on the hydraulic group 1, as a result of which the hydraulic cylinder 2 is actuated so that the tailgate 6 is moved from its starting position A towards the end position E. This is illustrated in the diagram by the opening direction arrow OR. When a first predetermined angle of opening O1 is reached, the control unit switches off the hydraulic unit 1, 2. For the final movement phase of the opening movement 1 between the first predetermined angle of opening O1 and the end position E, the tailgate 6 continues to be driven only by the pair of gas springs 5.1, 5.2. The hydraulic cylinder 2 is released in this phase so that the piston rod is entrained further in the opening direction by the drive lever 3.

[0022] In the event of a closing command, the control unit switches on the hydraulic group 1 again, and the hydraulic cylinder 2 is subjected to pressure in a reverse operating direction. To this end, the control unit activates corresponding fluidic switching elements, for example a multiport valve. The tailgate 6 is now driven from its end position E towards its starting position A. This is illustrated in the diagram by the closing direction arrow SR. When a second predetermined angle of opening O2 is reached, the control unit switches off the hydraulic unit 1, 2. In the last movement phase of the closing movement

2, between the second predetermined angle of opening and the starting position A, only the spring force of the pair of gas springs 5.1, 5.2 continues to act against the force of gravity on the tailgate 6. The spring force of the pair of gas springs is so designed, however, that ~~therefore~~ the force of gravity on the tailgate 6 is sufficient to reach the starting position A. The hydraulic cylinder 2 is released in this phase, similar to the case of the opening movement, so that the rod head is moved further by the drive lever 3 in the closing direction. The detection of the angle of opening and the switching-off of the hydraulic unit take place similarly to the case of the opening operation.